

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 19 as follows and cancel Claims 10 and 12-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming process for forming an image-recorded article having a coating layer on at least a part of an image formed, which comprises the steps of

providing a liquid composition containing a polymer,

providing an image-recorded article formed on a recording medium by an ink-jet recording method, and

applying the liquid composition to at least a part of an image of the recorded article to insolubilize the polymer contained in the liquid composition on the surface of the image, thereby forming the coating layer at a position to which the liquid composition has been applied,

wherein the recording medium has a surface which insolubilizes the polymer, and

wherein an absorption coefficient,  $K_a$ , 1 from 0.025 seconds to 0.1 second in the Bristow method of the liquid composition into the recording medium is within a range of from 0.5 to 1.5 ( $\text{ml} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{msec}^{-1/2}$ ).

2. (Original) The image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has a structure represented by  $-\text{COOA}$  (1), wherein A is an alkali metal, ammonium or an organic ammonium, and the surface pH of the recording medium is a pH which insolubilizes the polymer.

3. (Original) The image forming process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has a structure represented by  $-\text{COOA}$  (1), wherein A is an alkali metal, ammonium or

an organic ammonium, and the recording medium contains a polyvalent metal ion which insolubilizes the polymer.

4. (Original) The image forming process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polymer is a vinyl copolymer containing a unit composed of an acrylic monomer.

5. (Original) The image forming process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polymer contains a unit composed of a monomer having ultraviolet absorbency.

6. (Original) The image forming process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the liquid composition contains a surfactant having ethylene oxide.

7. (Original) The image forming process according to claim 2, wherein the recording medium has a porous ink-receiving layer, and the surface pH thereof is within a range of from 5.4 to 7.0.

8. (Original) The image forming process according to claim 7, wherein the recording medium has a porous ink-receiving layer containing an alumina hydrate.

9. (Original) The image forming process according to claim 3, wherein the recording medium has a porous ink-receiving layer, and the ink-receiving layer contains any ion selected from the group consisting of an alkaline earth metal ion, a rare earth metal ion and a zirconium ion.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The image forming process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the liquid composition contains at least two water-soluble polymers.

12-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) An image-recorded article obtained by the image forming process according to any one of ~~claims 1, 12 and 14~~ claim 1.

20. (Original) The image-recorded article according to claim 19, wherein the coating layer formed on the image further comprises a layer containing a polymer impregnated into the surface layer of the image and insolubilized.